

## Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

AID-20 /180 W

----- 079002

R 090901Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3056

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 2338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE

SUBJ: CABINET DEVELOPMENTS

BEIRUT FOR RCAA

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

REF: (A) SANAA 2227; (B) SANAA 2286 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: DEP PRIMIN/FONMIN MUHAMMAD AHMAD  
NU'MAN RESIGNS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 5. REAPPOINTED  
AS POLITICAL ADVISER TO PRESIDENT. MINSTATE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT AHMAD ABDU SA'ID WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION.  
RETURN OF FORMER PRIMIN MUHSIN AL-AYNI CONTINUES TO  
BE BLOCKED.END

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2. IN A MOVE LONG EXPECTED BY THOSE FAMILIAR

WITH HIS PERSONALITY CONFLICT WITH PRIMIN HAJRI, DEP PRIMIN/  
FONMIN MUHAMMAD AHMAD NU'MAN SUBMITTED LETTER TO  
PRESIDENT IRYANI DECEMBER 5 REQUESTING PERMIS-

SION RESIGN. GROUNDS CITED FOR REQUEST WERE DIFFICULTIES  
AND ANOMALIES WHICH WOULD BE CREATED FOR NU'MAN'S FATHER,  
AHMAD MUHAMMAD NU'MAN IF AS (NEWLY ELECTED) MEMBER OF  
YARG'S HIGHEST EXECUTIVE BODY, THE THREE MAN REPUBLICAN COUNCIL,  
HE WERE OBLIGED INTERVENE IN AFFAIRS OF A CABINET WHICH  
INCLUDED HIS OWN SON. (TEXT OF LETTER OF RESIGNATION  
CARRIED FBIS LONDON 062053Z DEC 73.) PRESIDENT ACCEPTED  
RESIGNATION AND HAS ASKED PRIMIN HAJRI TEMPORARILY ASSUME  
FOREIGN MINISTRY PORTFOLIO ALTHOUGH WITH MINISTRY'S  
PRESENT TWO UNDER SECRETARIES CITED AS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS. EFFECTIVE DEC. 8 MUHAMMAD NU'MAN  
APPOINTED POLITICAL ADVISER TO PRESIDENT.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JUST BEFORE RESIGNA-  
TION, NU'MAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN ADDITION TO GROUNDS  
CITED IN LETTER TO PRESIDENT, HIS INABILITY WORK  
WITH PRIMIN HAJRI ALSO A SUBSTANTIAL FACTOR. HE  
DID NOT FEEL HE WAS BEING FORCED OUT BUT WITH  
HIS FATHERS'S ELECTION TO REPUBLICAN COUNCIL HE  
PREFERRED, AND FELT NU'MAN FAMILY'S INTEREST  
WOULD BE BEST PROTECTED BY, WITHDRAWAL FROM CABINET.  
AFTER A BUSY YEAR SPENT LARGELY IN TRAVELING OUTSIDE  
COUNTRY TO OTHER ARAB CAPITALS, UNGA, ALGIERS' NON-ALIGNED  
AND ARAB SUMMITS, AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE, HE WISHED  
RELINQUISH PROTOCOLRESPONSIBILITIES AND INVOLVE HIMSELF  
MORE ACTIVELY IN POLICY FORMULATION AND INTERNAL  
POLITICS, IT HAD BEEN AGREED WITH PRESIDENT PRIOR HIS  
RESIGNATION THAT HE WOULD BE APPOINTED POLITICAL ADVISER  
TO PRESIDENT, A JOB CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR HIM AND WHICH HE  
FELT WOULD GIVE HIM AN OPTIMUM PLATFORM FOR PURSUIT OF  
HIS INTERESTS.

4. COMMENT: NU'MAN SEEMED BUOYANT AND GENUINELY  
PLEASED WITH CHANGE. HE LIKES WORKING AT THE CENTER  
OF EVENTS AND AS FONMIN HAS FELT DISTANCED FROM UBIQUITOUS  
INTRA-YARG INTRIGUE AND MANEUVER. ALTHOUGH ANTI-NU'MAN  
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FACTIONS ARE APPLAUDING WHAT THEY ASSERT IS A  
COMEUPPANCE FOR HIM IN LONG STANDING CONFLICT WITH  
PRIMIN HAJRI, NU'MAN CLAN CAN FAIRLY CONSIDER THAT THEY  
ARE DOING WELL WITH BOTH FATHER AND SON INSTALLED IN  
OFFICES IN PRESIDENCY (REPUBLICAN PALACE) AND THAT  
HAJRI'S TIME WILL COME (ALTHOUGH NOT NOW  
BECAUSE OF SAUDI INSISTENCE THAT HE REMAIN IN OFFICE  
AS CONDITION FOR BUDGETARY SUPPORT). MUHAMMAD NU'MAN

ALSO PLAINLY GRATIFIED THAT PAST YEAR'S TENURE AS FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ENHANCED HIS EXPOSURE IN OTHER ARAB CAPITALS AND INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. IN TERMS OF HIS ULTIMATE POLITICAL AMBITIONS HE PROBABLY CONSIDERS THAT HE HAD EXTRACTED ABOUT AS MUCH BENEFIT AS COULD BE DERIVED FROM HOLDING FONMIN POSITION. END COMMENT.

5. IN SAME CONVERSATION AND ILLUSTRATING WHAT HE FELT WERE ADVANTAGES OF BEING IN CAPITAL AS OPPOSED TO TRAVELING ABROAD, NU'MAN SAID MATTERS WERE PROGRESSING WELL IN THE SUBTLE CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS SINCE LAST SUMMER TO BLOCK PRESIDENT IRYANI IN HIS WISH TO INDUCE FORMER PRIMIN MUHSIN AL-AYNI (NOW AMBASSADOR TO UK) RETURN TO YARG. PRESIDENT STILL HOPING CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY WOULD AGREE EXPAND REPUBLICAN COUNCIL FROM THREE TO FIVE MEMBERS SO AS TO INCLUDE AL-AYNI AND DEP PRIMIN DR. HASSAN MEKKI, ANOTHER LEFTIST. HOWEVER, THANKS TO BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING BY OPPOS- NENTS OF THIS MOVE, PRESIDENT NOW UNDERSTOOD HIS CHANCES SLIGHT SINCE (A) FIRM MAJORITY OF CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OPPOSED TO ELEVATION OF MEKKI AND (B) IT APPARENT TO AL-AYNI THAT HIS RETURN TO SANAA AS MEMBER OF ENLARGED REPUBLICAN COUNCIL, A BODY HE OPPOSES IN PRINCIPLE, WOULD GIVE HIM ONLY A FRACTION OF THE AUTHORITY FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN BARGAINING.

6. UNRELATED FOREGOING, MINSTATE FOR DEVELOPMENT, AHMAD ABDU SA'ID, HAS BEEN PERSUADED BY PRESIDENT IRYANI WITHDRAW RESIGNATIONS HE SUBMITTED NOVEMBER 27 (REF B). THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, AS SA'ID IS MUCH TOO IMPORTANT TO YAR'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TO BE ALLOWED RESIGN OVER MATTER SO INCONSEQUENTIAL AS PRIMIN HAJRI'S MEDDLING IN MANAGEMENT OF YEMENI AIRLINES, HOWEVER CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPROPER AND ANNOYING. PRESIDENTIALLY-IMPOSED COMPROMISE WHICH ENABLED SA'ID HONORABLY WITHDRAW RESIGNATION INVOLVED PARTIAL RETREAT BY PRIMIN AND HIS ACQUIESCENCE IN RE-FIRING ONE OF THE TWO AIRLINE OFFICIALS THAT PRIMIN HAD REIN- STATED AFTER EARLIER DISMISSAL FOR CAUSE BY DEVELOPMENT MINISTER.

7. ANOTHER KEY YARG OFFICIAL, ECONOMY MINISTER ABDULLAH AL-ASNAG DUE BACK FROM LONDON DECEMBER 9 AFTER FAIRLY PROTRACTED ABSENCE THAT HAS HAMPERED EFFECTIVE DECISION- MAKING IN GOVERNMENT WHICH CHAOTIC EVEN AT BEST OF TIMES. WITH HIS RETURN, SA'ID'S RESIGNATION RESCINDED, MUHAMMAD NU'MAN STILL ON BROAD EVEN IN CHANGED STATUS, AND AL-AYNI'S RETURN BLOCKED BY AN EFFECTIVE COALITION OF HIS OPPONENTS, PROSPECTS ARE THAT GOVERNMENT OF MODERATE,

CENTRIST COMPLEXION WILL CONTINUE MUDDLE ALONG FOR THE FORE-  
SEEABLE FUTURE. BASIC REASON FOR THIS IS ABILITY OF CONSERVATIVES  
STIMULATED AND SUPPORTED BY SAUDI ARABIA TO OBSTRUCT  
PRESIDENT IRYANI IN HIS WISH MOVE GOVERNMENT BALANCE SOMEWHAT  
TO LEFT, AND COUNTERVAILING CAPACITY OF  
PRESIDENT AND LEFT TO PREVENT POLICY DICTATION BY SAG  
AND CONSERVATIVES.  
CRAWFORD

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, YE, (NU'MAN, MUHAMMAD AHMAD)  
**To:** STATE  
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